

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. (US Pat. No. 6,858,898) in view of Yokogawa et al. (US Pat. No. 6,762,553).

Claims 24-27 stand withdrawn from consideration for allegedly being drawn to a non-elected invention based on originally presented invention.

Claims 4-14, 16, 19-23, 28, 30 and 32-36 stand allowed.

Summary of Amendment

Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 1-3 and 15-36 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 4-14 are pending for consideration.

All Claims in Condition for Allowance

Claims 1, 2, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Yokogawa et al. By the amendment above, claims 1, 2, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the §103 rejection is now moot.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10, and any claims depending therefrom, are also in condition for allowance.

Withdrawn claims 24-27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file these claims in a divisional application at the Applicant's discretion.

By the amendment above, only the allowed claims 4-14 now remain pending in this application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejection be withdrawn and the application be passed to issue.

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CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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